

Missouri State Board of Education

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship

Deadline for Nominations: Monday, February 9, 2004

Senate Bill 198, passed in 1989 by the Missouri General Assembly, revised Missouri law (section 170.011. RSMo) pertaining to the teaching of the federal and state constitutions and U.S. history and institutions in the state's public and private schools. The law included a number of new provisions, one of which established a special award for outstanding achievement in citizenship. The wording of that portion of the law is as follows:

In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, each school district maintaining a high school may annually nominate to the state board of education a student who has demonstrated knowledge of the principles of government and citizenship through academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and service to the community. Annually, the state board of education shall select fifteen students from those nominated by the local school districts and shall recognize and award them for their academic achievement, participation and service.

Who Is Eligible to Receive the Award?

The State Board of Education is to select 15 public high school students to receive the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship. To be eligible for consideration, a student must be a senior in a public high school and the school's only nominee for the award. In districts with more than one high school, each high school may nominate one student for the award.

Who Will Select the Winners?

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will appoint a committee to review nominations and recommend 15 outstanding students for the award. The committee will include representatives of the Missouri Bar Advisory Committee on Citizenship Education, the Missouri Council for the Social Studies, the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals, the State Board of Education and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Candidates will be evaluated on a 50-point scale. The nomination form tells how points will be awarded.

What Are the Criteria for Receiving the Award?

Senate Bill 198 provides that a student must have "demonstrated knowledge of the principles of government and citizenship through academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and service to the community." Based on these guidelines, the State Board of Education has established the following criteria to be used in selecting students for the award:

1. Academic Achievement

- 1.1. Evidence must be submitted to indicate that the student has earned excellent grades in all high school courses taken that pertain to government and citizenship.
- 1.2. Evidence must be submitted to indicate that the student chose to take one of more high-level, challenging courses in government and/or citizenship.
- 1.3. A sample of the student's work, an essay on a given topic, must be submitted for evaluation by the review committee to ascertain that the student can carry out a high-quality research project pertaining to government, civics or some major societal issue.

Selection Criteria *(continued)*

2. Extracurricular Activities

- 2.1. Evidence must be submitted to indicate that the student has participated in extracurricular activities that relate to government, public policy issues, and/or community affairs. Such activities may include but should not be limited to student government.
- 2.2. Evidence must be submitted to indicate that the student has served in a leadership role in one or more of those organizations.

3. Community Service

- 3.1. Evidence must be submitted to indicate that the student has chosen to involve himself/herself in service to the community.
- 3.2. Evidence must be submitted to indicate that the student has served in a leadership role in one or more of those activities.

What Are the Benefits for Winners?

Recipients of the Missouri Award for Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship will be invited to attend a banquet in the spring in Jefferson City, where the Missouri State Board of Education and other state leaders will honor them. Winners may also place on their resumes that they were recipients of the Missouri Award for Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship.

Who May Nominate Students?

High school principals, with the advice of their faculties, may nominate students for this award.

What Must Be Submitted by Nominees?

High school principals must submit an official nomination form to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. *Nomination forms that are incomplete or late will be disqualified.*

Other District Responsibilities

Each high school or school district with a winning student will be responsible for selecting a faculty member to accompany the student to the awards banquet. The student's parents also will be invited to attend. All travel costs to and from the banquet will need to be borne by the district or from local sources the district is able to arrange. Banquet costs for the award winner, the faculty member, and the parents will be borne by the state, through a generous gift from the Missouri Bar Foundation.

Questions?

For more information about the Missouri Award for Outstanding Achievement in Citizenship, contact:

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